

Muscogee Manufacturing Company, 1868
Front Avenue and 14th Street intersection
Columbus
Muscogee County
Georgia

HAER GA-23

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Muscogee Manufacturing Company

HAER No. GA-23

Location: Front Avenue and 14th Street
Columbus, Georgia

Dates of Construction: Original mill, 1866-1868
Additional mills, 1880, 1887, 1904, 1916, 1926, 1950

Present Owners: Fieldcrest Mills, Inc., Eden, North Carolina

Significance: Each successive mill of the Muscogee complex has its own character and significance. All buildings erected at the site since 1868 remain standing, an unusual massing of industrial buildings which clearly reveals the sprawling expansion of the company. This growth has included the absorption of two independently built structures, the Carnegie Public Library and the Mott House, an antebellum plantation home. On the factory site in antebellum years stood the Coweta Falls Factory (1844), the first textile mill established within the city limits of Columbus. All Columbus textile mills were burned by Union forces in 1865; after the war, George Parker Swift and other Georgia industrialists organized the Muscogee Manufacturing Company and built the first of seven mills extant on the site. The wheelhouse of Mill #1 housed in 1885 the first arc-light dynamo installed for commercial lighting in Columbus.

Historians: J. B. Karfunkle, Barbara A. Kimmelman, John S. Lupold, 1977

(See HAER drawings numbered GA-33-11, GA-33-12, and GA-33-13 [Front Avenue Industrial District])

MUSCOGEE MANUFACTURING COMPANY

The remarkable mill complex of the Muscogee Manufacturing Company is situated in downtown Columbus at 14th Street, just north of the Eagle and Phenix mill complex (see Columbus Drawing 1, MUS photo 1). It stands at the site of one of Columbus's earliest textile mills, established in 1844. The site's association with Columbus's ante-bellum textile industry contributes greatly to its significance.

The site also figured prominently in Columbus's early water power development. Although records are scarce and often conflicting for the ante-bellum period, it is known that the City of Columbus, when dividing the town into lots for sale, set aside 37 "water lots" along the Chattahoochee River extending south from 14th Street. These lots were to be sold to private individuals on the condition that the purchasers develop the water power at the lot for industrial use (see Water Power Development at the Falls of the Chattahoochee, HAER, Columbus Report, 1977, for more detailed discussion and references). The Muscogee mill's predecessor was among the first to take advantage of the river's power.

This report is divided into three sections. The first is a general chronological history of the site, divided into ante-bellum and post-war periods; the second deals with power production at the site, and with the company's interesting role in the introduction of the electrical industry in Columbus; the third is a conclusion.

I. General History

Ante-Bellum Years

In 1844 the Coweta Falls Factory, the first textile mill within the Columbus city limits, went into operation at the site of the present Muscogee Manufacturing Company. [1] Major John H. Howard and Josephus Echols built the Coweta Falls mill on the northernmost of 37 water lots set aside for private developers by the city of Columbus. [2]

Water Lot 1 cost the developers \$3,500; mill construction costs totalled \$6,000. Contemporary newspapers described the mill as a 75 x 48 foot, five-story brick structure with a tin roof. A mill bell in the belfry atop the roof called the hands to work. [3] A dam, built by Howard and Echols just north of the mill, diverted water into a power canal which ran to water lots 1 through 29. The canal served several other ante-bellum mills, including the Howard Factory and the Eagle Manufacturing Company (see Water Power Development... report for details of canal construction and significance of these early mills). Power was transmitted hydromechanically to the 1,100 spindles and 20 looms in the Coweta Falls mill. [4]

In April 1845, Colonel Farish Carter, one of the wealthiest cotton planters in Georgia, purchased one-quarter interest in the Coweta Falls Factory; his nephew, Dr. John Baird, also purchased interest in the concern. [5] The owners used the newly acquired capital to expand the mill facilities. By 1849, total investment had reached \$80,000 in the Coweta Falls Factory. There were 3,700 spindles and 45 looms making cloth and yarn. A machine shop in the building produced spindles and looms for the mill and for other manufacturers. Power to the entire mill was provided by a Rich's center vent water wheel 5 feet in diameter. [6]

In April 1851, high water flooding damaged the power canal, crumbling half its length and severely reducing power available to the various mills. The Coweta Falls Factory, at the head of the canal, blocked the entrance to divert more water to its wheels, further inhibiting flow to the mills below. Not until June 1853 was the western wall of the canal completely restored. [7]

The Coweta Falls Factory suffered difficulties in addition to the problems and controversies concerning water flow. The company frequently suffered from sudden rises in cotton prices, a condition rendered more acute by a shortage of operating capital. In 1851 the Brunswick Bank, the company's primary lender, refused to extend further credit. The stockholders of the company could not raise the operating capital required, and the company was forced to mortgage its assets in 1852 to R. J. Moses, Epping, and Reed. In 1854 the Coweta Falls Factory defaulted on the mortgage, and the owners sold out to Seaborn Jones, Paul Simms, and other Columbus businessmen. [8]

The start of the Civil War saw the Coweta Falls mill owned by John J. Grant, a cotton broker and commission merchant. Grant's business, like all Columbus concerns, experienced a great wartime expansion. Coweta Falls produced white goods and yarns for the Confederacy. Grant's good fortune ended abruptly in April 1865, when General Wilson's Union troops burned Coweta Falls, and all the other Columbus textile mills, to the ground. [9]

The Swift Ownership, 1866-1963

George Parker Swift, a textile entrepreneur originally from Massachusetts, had moved to Georgia in the 1830's and established several mills in Upson County. One large mill of 5,000 spindles and 200 looms produced grey sheetings, shirtings, and ball thread from the 1840's until well after the Civil War. Swift found the profitability of this mill limited by the crude transportation available at the site; twice weekly, a six-mule team pulled the finished goods 75 miles to Macon by covered wagon. Another of Swift's concerns, the Flint River Mill at what is now Swifton, could ship its products by ferry to railroad terminals. [10]

Swift became familiar with Columbus during the ante-bellum period through John J. Grant of the Coweta Falls mill, who served as factory agent for one of Swift's mills. Swift's firsthand experience of the importance of transportation facilities to manufacturing success drew him to Columbus after the Civil War. He was attracted by the combination of water power and river transportation available at Columbus (the city was at the foot of the Falls of the Chattahoochee and at the head of river navigation). Swift went into business with his Columbus selling agent, and by 1866 Grant's Factory was under reconstruction at the Coweta Falls site. The new mill was to be larger and greatly improved over the ante-bellum establishment. [11]

The people of Columbus impatiently awaited the opening of the mill in anticipation of the great numbers who would be employed (many were left jobless after the mills burned in 1865). By December 1866, three of the four stories for the new mill were completed. In May 1867, the building was ready to receive machinery (MUS photo 2), and late that year Swift installed 2,400 spindles and 60 looms to produce sheetings, shirtings, and osnaburgs. A Leffel turbine of unknown capacity provided power to the mill. [12]

In order to acquire the necessary additional capital, Swift and his son, George P. Swift, Jr., along with S. G. Murphy and John J. Grant, incorporated the Muscogee Manufacturing Company. George P. Swift was president. Production capacity was systematically increased, and various smaller additions were added to the mill. [13] In 1880, Mill #2 was completed just north of Mill #1. The latter building is distinguishable by its original bell tower; the keystones in the east elevation of the former bear letters spelling the name of the company (MUS photos 3, 4a & 4b, 5; Columbus Drawing 23). Mill #1 housed carding, weaving, spinning, and spooling; Mill #2 was devoted to carding and weaving. The general production expansion associated with the new construction included increasing the number of spindles to approximately 6,000. [14]

In 1887 the company completed a third mill building. Mill #3 stands diagonally across the 14th Street and Front Avenue intersection from the two original buildings (MUS photos 6 and 7). Mill #3 was therefore isolated from the river, located too far away to receive power from the other mills. The company installed a steam engine to power Mill #3. In 1887, even before all equipment in Mill #3 was installed, the company produced 13,000 yards of cloth, including cottonades, checks, stripes, and plaids, plus cotton rope, which enjoyed markets throughout the South and as far west as St. Louis. By 1900, Mill #3 was fully equipped, and the company operated 13,000 spindles and 450 looms, producing primarily shirting and sheeting.

The sprawling expansion of the Muscogee Manufacturing Company continued rapidly after the turn of the century (see Columbus Drawing 7, Muscogee Site Plan, to follow discussion of new mill construction). In

1904 a fourth mill was completed, doubling the number of spindles. Although built along the river bank, the new mill was above the dam and raceways of the mill complex (MUS photo 9) and, like all later additions, required an alternative source of power (see section 2). At this time, Muscogee began to concentrate on the production of towels, ticking, cottonades, lap robes, bedspreads, and yarns. Jacquard looms were installed in Mill #4 to weave intricate multicolored (Jacquard) patterns (MUS photo 10). In 1916, completion of Mill #5, set behind Mill #3 (MUS photos 11, 12), brought another revision in the company's production policy; this time the product line was restricted to woven ticking and turkish toweling. Construction of Mill #6 in 1926 (MUS photo 13) brought the total number of spindles to 34,500 and looms to 1,043. [16]

By the late 1930's, the Muscogee Manufacturing Company had become a major producer of towels, ticking, and heavy fabrics, with markets throughout America and in several foreign countries. [17] Although the next major construction was not until 1950, the company's expansion continued in subtler ways, as additions and annexes sprouted beside the existing mills, surrounding and incorporating buildings which once had no affiliation with the mill.

In the 1940's the expanding mill complex engulfed the Mott House, a plantation house used as corporate offices since at least 1900 (MUS photo 14, Columbus Drawing 7). Built in the 1840's, this planter's home faced the Chattahoochee River at the northern end of Front Avenue. In 1849 the mansard roof was added (MUS photo 15). Colonel Randolph Mott purchased the house in 1856 for \$20,000.00. Throughout the Civil War, Mott, a staunch Unionist, flew the American flag over his home. When General Wilson captured Columbus, he was invited to use the house as his headquarters. The Mott House, still visible as a unit from the Alabama shore (MUS photo 1), is the last of the great mid-19th-century plantation houses that fronted the Chattahoochee. [18]

The Carnegie Public Library building (MUS photo 16) became a part of the mill complex in 1950. The completion of Mill #7 during that year, just north of Mill #6, brought the Muscogee Manufacturing Company to the library's back door (Columbus Drawing 7, MUS photo 17). Muscogee acquired the building and incorporated it as a machine shop. [19]

Completion of Mill #7 increased the company's capacity to 34,252 spindles and 1,175 looms. The latter included 1,015 plain looms, 164 Dobby looms, and 36 Jacquard looms. At this time the production processes were restricted to the five newer mills. Management had begun phasing Mills #1 and #2 out of production in the 1920's because of their isolation from the rest of the mill complex. It was difficult to integrate them into a process flow with the other mills, and they were devoted to storage by 1950. [20]

The production process after 1950 began in Mill #4, where bales of raw cotton were broken, opened, and picked on the first floor. The upper floors housed carding, drawing, and slubbing operations. Bleaching was done in Mill #3; the upper floors of this building were devoted to ring spinning. Mill #5 housed spooling, warping, and tying-in operations. Mill #6 had warpers, slashers, twisting, and winding on the top floor, while lower floors housed the looms. Dyeing took place in Mill #7. Production flowed systematically from Mill #4 to Mill #7 (see Columbus Drawing 7, Muscogee Site Plan). [21]

Throughout these years of expansion, the Muscogee Manufacturing Company remained a Swift family concern. [22] In 1963, Fieldcrest Mills Inc. of Eden, North Carolina, acquired the mill complex. Fieldcrest discontinued the making of ticking and converted the mill entirely to towel production. By 1974 Fieldcrest had expanded production capabilities to 44,332 spindles and 734 looms and today claims that the Columbus mill is one of the largest towel mills in the world. It is the largest mill operated by Fieldcrest and is the only mill in Columbus to take raw cotton and fashion a finished product; all the others send cloth to manufacturers who produce consumer goods. Towels from the former Muscogee Mill are transported to a cutting, sewing, and warehousing operation in Phenix City. From here towels are distributed for wholesale and retail markets around the world. [23]

II. Power Production

The 19th-century water power facilities of the Muscogee Manufacturing Company provided hydromechanical power via belts and shafting to the machinery of Mills #1 and #2. The wheelhouse adjacent to Mill #1, which remains standing but is unused today, juts out into the river flow. Water passed through the head gates in the northern wall (MUS photo 18) to the turbines. The tailrace ran past the Eagle and Phenix mills, and served as tailrace for the turbines of those mills as well (see Water Power Development at the Falls of the Chattahoochee and Eagle and Phenix Mills, HAER, 1977). [24]

In 1885, Muscogee's water power acquired a far greater significance for Columbus. In that year William A. Swift, son of George P. Swift and director of the recently organized Brush Electric Light and Power Company of Columbus, installed a 20-arc-light Brush dynamo in the wheelhouse of Mill #1. This was the first electric dynamo installed at Columbus for commercial use (Eagle and Phenix had installed an arc-light dynamo in 1880 for its own mills: see HAER report, Eagle and Phenix Mills, 1977). The turbine-driven dynamo provided light to a few downtown merchants after the Muscogee mills closed for the night. During the first nights of its operation, hundreds of curious citizens crowded Broadway to inspect the phenomenon. [25]

Soon thereafter the Brush Company installed a 60-arc-light Brush

dynamo to provide street lighting for Columbus. By 1890, demand for electricity had so expanded that the Brush Electric Light and Power Company moved its operations to another site (see Power Station of the Columbus Railroad Company at the City Mills Dam, HAER, 1977). From 1897 until 1904, Muscogee Manufacturing received electricity for light and power from the hydroelectric plant of the Columbus Railroad Company. [26]

The Muscogee Company remodeled its wheelhouse in 1898 to increase the capacity of the turbines beneath. The head gates were enlarged and more water was diverted from the stream into the tailrace. This action sparked a serious controversy with Muscogee's influential neighbor. Muscogee Manufacturing owned only water lot #1. Eagle and Phenix owned the next 18 downstream (the 18 lots below Eagle and Phenix, set aside by the city as water lots, were never industrially developed). Eagle and Phenix brought suit against the Muscogee Manufacturing Company, claiming that the latter was using more than its share of the water power made available by the Eagle and Phenix dam, that Muscogee was allowed only 1/19 of the available water power. Muscogee claimed that because Eagle and Phenix had devoted only 11 of its 18 lots to development of water power, building warehouses and other outbuildings on the remainder with no relation to the river, Muscogee was entitled to 1/12 of the available water power.

The court refused to support Eagle and Phenix's claim. The case was long and drawn out. In 1909 an out of court agreement was finally reached between the two water lot owners. Muscogee closed down its wheelhouse (except for the fire pumps feeding its Hill Automatic Sprinkler system; see MUS photo 19); in return, Eagle and Phenix supplied power to Muscogee in amounts up to 500 horsepower per day. This power was transmitted electrically from the Eagle and Phenix upper power house to motors in Mills #1 and #2 which drove the shafting. [27]

Use of electric power was not new at Muscogee in 1909. Mill #4, completed in 1904, was designed to run completely on electric power, transmitted from the North Highlands dam of the Columbus Power Company. From 1910 Muscogee received power from both the Power Company's and the Eagle and Phenix's generators. [28] Muscogee continues to use centrally generated power today; not since the 1909 agreement with Eagle and Phenix has the company produced power for its own use.

III. Conclusion

The persistence of all mill buildings constructed at the site since 1868 effectively illustrates both the growth of Muscogee and the different power schemes applied by the company. The period between 1890 and 1930 was one of changing technologies and attitudes, which transformed the application of power to industrial machinery. The Muscogee Manufacturing Company, gradually expanding and building throughout these

years, reflected the nature and chronology of technical innovation. In 1900, Mills #1 and #2 (1867, 1888) were powered hydromechanically; Mill #3 (1887), isolated from the river, was powered by steam, but power still had to be mechanically transmitted by belts and shafting running throughout the mill. [29]

Mill #4 (1904), built above the head of the falls which powered Mills #1 and #2, was the first of the Muscogee complex powered by electricity. From the start of its operation, electric motors turned the mill's shafting. The same system, which simply replaced the water wheel with motors, was applied to Mills #5 and #6 (1916, 1926). Mills #1 and #2 were converted from hydromechanical power to motor-driven shafting following the 1909 agreement with Eagle and Phenix, and they remained on this system until phased out of production in the 1920's and 1930's.

Throughout this period the superiority of individual motor drive over group drive was becoming recognized. [30] Muscogee began converting its entire plant from group to individual drive in the 1940's. Mill #7, completed in 1950, was built to run with individual motor drive. The operating life of the Muscogee Manufacturing Company has therefore spanned several major systems of industrial power utilization, from mechanical transmission of water and steam power to individual electric drive supplied by central station power companies.

The mass of industrial buildings which constitute the Muscogee complex is in itself an impressive testimony to the growth of the company. The survival of so many structures, representing an intact chronology of over a century of company development, is quite unusual. The complex provides a unique visual history of the site as its occupants responded to demands for expansion and change.

Footnotes

1. The Columbus Factory, which was the first textile mill in Muscogee County, was completed in 1837. This was located at the Clapp's Factory site, where Oliver Dam now stands; technically it was three miles north of the city, so the Coweta Falls Factory was the first mill in Columbus. See John H. Martin, compiler, Columbus, Georgia, from Its Selection as a Trading Town in 1827 to its Partial Destruction by Wilson's Raid in 1865 (Columbus, 1874), Vol. I, p. 96, Vol. II, p. 36.
2. Eagle and Phenix vs. Muscogee Manufacturing Company, Muscogee County Superior Court, Records of Writ 1898-1908. (The case was argued and appealed for 10 years; check volume indexes for appropriate pages each year.) The case summarizes early water power development in Columbus.
3. Columbus Times, quoted in Savannah Republican, 27 January 1845, cited in Richard Warden Griffin and Harold S. Wilson, The Antebellum Textile Industry of Georgia (unpublished manuscript), in possession of authors.
4. Martin, Columbus, Vol. I, pp. 157-158; George White, Statistics of the State of Georgia (Savannah, 1849), p. 446; Eagle and Phenix vs. Muscogee Manufacturing Company, Muscogee County Superior Court, Records of Writ 1898-1908.
5. Copy of Coweta Falls Deed, 1 April 1845, Farish Carter Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (SHC, UNC); Columbus Enquirer, quoted in Savannah Republican, 3 May 1845, cited in White, Statistics, gives 1/2 the stock as the amount purchased by Carter.
6. George White, quoted in Marjorie Young, ed., Textile Leaders of the South (Anderson, South Carolina, 1963), p. 458. Other Columbus mills in 1849 included the Columbus Factory, capitalized at \$50,000, and the Howard Factory, capitalized at \$85,000. Figures which conflict with those given in the text appeared in Hunt's Merchants' Magazine (August 1850), p. 247. This journal lists Coweta Falls equipment as: 2,500 spindles producing 1,400-1,800 pounds of thread per day; 44 looms producing 1,800 yards heavy osnaburgs per day; 24 cotton, 3 wool cards; the factory employed 115-120 boys and girls from 12 years old and up; wages for overseers were \$30-\$60 per month, for weavers \$15 per month, for carders \$8 per month, for spinners \$7.50 per month.

7. Letters, from Walter Terry Colquitt to Farish Carter, 31 January 1851; Dr. John Baird to Carter, 22 April 1851; Baird to Carter, 25 August 1851; P. L. Barry Miller to Carter, 27 June 1853. Farish Carter Papers, SHC, UNC.
8. White, Statistics, Vol. II, p. 27. Baird to Carter, 20 June 1851; Baird to Carter, 21 April 1851; Farish Carter Papers, SHC, UNC. Griffin, Antebellum Textile manuscript, p. 153. Eagle and Phenix vs. Muscogee Manufacturing Company, Muscogee County Superior Court, Records of Writ 1904. Owners in 1854, before the sale, included Paul J. Simms, Major John H. Howard, Josephus Echols, John Fontaine, Henry D. Meigs, Charles D. Steward, Col. Farish Carter, and Dr. John Baird.
9. Etta Blanchard Worsley, Columbus on the Chattahoochee (Columbus, Georgia, 1951), p. 285; Columbus Sun, 27 July 1866; Diffie William Standard, Columbus, Georgia, in the Confederacy, the Social and Industrial Life of the Chattahoochee River Port (New York, 1954), pp. 29-30; Columbus Enquirer-Sun, 4 September 1878.
10. Biographical information on George Parker Swift from Edward W. Swift, "Swift Family Facts," unpublished manuscript, 17 March 1948. G. P. Swift's original mill in Georgia was a joint venture with his sister, Mrs. William J. Waynman; the village established by the Swifts surrounding the mill became known as Waynmanville.
11. "Swift Family Facts" manuscript; Columbus Sun, 6 July 1866, 27 July 1866, 11 December 1866.
12. Columbus Sun, 11 December 1866, 9 March 1870; Columbus Daily Enquirer, 17 May 1867; Columbus Sunday Ledger-Enquirer, 16 May 1937, p. 23. The town was quite enthusiastic about the new mill, hailing Swift as "one of the most wealthy, enterprising and far-seeing men in the state" (Sun, 6 July 1866). Local tradition has it that Swift built his mill on stone piers and that it was supported at only four points. Swift did have to fill in land on the river side of the structure in order to support that end. It is also believed that the mill is built with a slight bending in the walls running lengthwise (east-west): see Columbus Daily Enquirer, 17 May 1867, 3 November 1869. The authors were unable to find documentation in support of these contentions.
13. Charter, Muscogee Manufacturing Company, 19 March 1869; Columbus Daily Enquirer, 9 March 1869. Officers in 1869 were George P. Swift, president, William A. Swift, secretary/treasurer; directors were George P. Swift, George P. Swift, Jr., J. Rhodes Browne, H. H. Epping, S. G. Murphy, William A. Swift, William H. Woods, Charles Edward Dexter, John T. Grant, Calvin Johnson. Original capitalization was \$150,000. Capital was increased to \$204,000 in 1870 to

increase capacity to 4,000 spindles: see Columbus Sun, 9 March 1870.

14. 1880 Manuscript, U.S. Census of Manufactures, State of Georgia, Georgia State Archives, Atlanta; Young, ed., Textile Leaders, p. 458.
15. The Industries of Columbus, Georgia, Her Advantages as a Business Center, Manufacturing Locality, and Healthful Habitation, booster pamphlet, Columbus, Georgia, 1887 (William Gilbert, printer); Young, ed., Textile Leaders of the South, p. 458. Interesting artifacts of this period remaining in mill #3 are sections of riveted sheet iron pipe, hung from the ceiling on all floors (see MUS photo 8), installed around 1910. Riveted pipe of this sort was used in refrigeration systems to carry the refrigerant. The Columbus Iron Works, five blocks south of Muscogee at Ninth and Front, produced a popular ice machine during this period (see Columbus Iron Works, HAER report, 1977). The presence of the pipe at Muscogee suggests that the Iron Works not only incorporated such pipe into these machines, but also sold it to at least one local mill, probably to carry steam: this information from tour of mill and untaped interview with plant superintendent Ivey Adams, conducted by John S. Lupold, 22 June 1977.
16. Young, ed., Textile Leaders of the South, p. 458.
17. Columbus Sunday Ledger-Enquirer, 16 May 1937, p. 23.
18. Article on Mott House in the Mill Whistle, Muscogee Manufacturing Company newsletter, 7 November 1966, Muscogee office files, Columbus, Georgia; see also Mott House, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, prepared by Elizabeth MacGregor, Office of Historic Preservation, State Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.
19. Examination of Mill #7, tour and untaped interview with Ivey Adams.
20. Taped interview with Edward Swift, conducted by John S. Lupold, 15 August 1977, tape at Columbus College Archives, Columbus, Georgia; Insurance Map of Muscogee Manufacturing Company, 27 October 1950, revised 22 March 1957, Associated Factory Mutual, Norwood, Massachusetts. Dobby and Jacquard looms both weave patterned cloth; the Dobby is limited to smaller, simpler patterns.
21. Insurance Map, Muscogee Manufacturing Company, 27 October 1950, revised 22 March 1957, Associated Factory Mutual, Norwood, Massachusetts.
22. Worsley, Columbus on the Chattahoochee, p. 378. George P. Swift was the first president of Muscogee Manufacturing until his death in 1897 and was succeeded by his son, Edward W. Swift (who the year before had succeeded his brother, William A. Swift, as secretary/treasurer). In 1949 Edward W. Swift became chairman of the Board of

Directors, his nephew, George P. Swift III, formerly vice-president, became president, and William D. Swift then filled the post of vice-president.

23. Columbus Ledger-Enquirer Advertising Supplement, 6 January 1974, p. 54. Fieldcrest also acquired the Swift Spinning Mills, another Swift family company at Columbus, in 1973.
24. Examination of power house. For further details and documentation on hydropower development at the site, see Water Power Development at the Falls of the Chattahoochee and Eagle and Phenix Mills reports, HAER, 1977.
25. W. F. Borleau, "The Electrical Equipment of a Southern City," Electrical World 30 (4 September 1897), 275-278; Columbus Sunday Ledger-Enquirer, 16 May 1937, p. 23.
26. Borleau, "The Electrical Equipment..."; letter from H. S. Reynolds, mgr. Columbus Railroad Company, to George J. Baldwin, Baldwin Papers (Columbus files), SHC, UNC. The Brush Company installed some of its generating equipment at the new hydroelectric station of the Columbus Railroad Company in 1897.
27. Eagle and Phenix Mills vs. Muscogee Manufacturing Company, Muscogee County Superior Court, Records of Writ, 1909.
28. Sanborn Insurance Map of Columbus (Muscogee Manufacturing Co. sheet), 1907; Engineering files 1910-1940, Eagle and Phenix Records, Columbus, Georgia. Frequently Eagle and Phenix would pay the Columbus Power Company to supply the 500 horsepower to Muscogee rather than supply it directly.
29. Data on the various mills in this and in the two following paragraphs from Sanborn Insurance Maps of Columbus, 1889, 1895, 1907; also Edward Swift interview.
30. Consulting the index of Electrical World for these years (1890-1930) reveals an increasing number of articles dealing with application of electricity to industrial machinery, particularly the advantages of individual motor drive.

Bibliography

The historians were unable to uncover manuscripts or printed sources dealing primarily with the Muscogee Manufacturing Company. The following printed sources offer limited information on the company and the site.

Manuscript and Primary Sources

Eagle and Phenix vs. Muscogee Manufacturing Company, Muscogee County Superior Court, Records of Writ 1898-1909 (consult volume indices for each year for appropriate pages). This suit, concerning water power rights at the Eagle and Phenix dam, deals with the early history of the Columbus water lots, and later relations between the two companies.

Farish Carter Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Letters from the 1850's deal with the ante-bellum Coweta Falls Factory at the site of the present-day Muscogee mills.

Sanborn Insurance Maps of Columbus, 1889, 1895, 1907, give information on machinery, numbers employed, etc., and indicate chronological additions and changes.

Swift, Edward W., "Swift Family Facts," unpublished manuscript dated 17 March 1948, gives information on events in the lives of Swift family members, in possession of Swift family, Columbus, Georgia.

Interviews

Edward Swift, conducted by John S. Lupold, 15 August 1977, tape at Columbus College Archives, Columbus, Georgia. Swift gives family information and discusses changes at the mills 1920-1960.

Ivey Adams, plant superintendent at Muscogee mills, tour and untaped interview, conducted by John S. Lupold, 22 June 1977.

Printed Sources

Borleau, W. F., "The Electrical Equipment of a Southern City," Electrical World 30 (4 September 1897), pp. 275-278. This article discusses the installations of the Brush Electric Light and Power Company at Muscogee's Mill #1 wheelhouse in 1885.